

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. In particular, the allowable features of claim 7 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

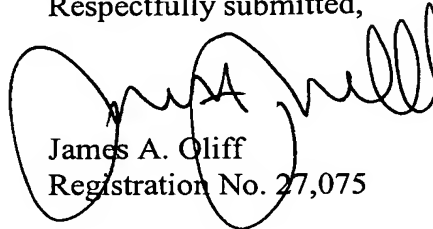
Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7 and 8.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,970,952 to Hiraga et al. (hereinafter "Hiraga") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,858,526 to Bengtsson. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features from dependent claim 7, and thus the rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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